

幻影博覧會

2

冬目景

KEI YOUNG

BIRZ
COMICS

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Contents

Chapter 7 The Assassin From Yami*	Part 1	003
	Part 2	023
	Part 3	040
Chapter 8 Backdrop Stage	Part 1	066
	Part 2	088
	Part 3	107
	Part 4	131
	Part 5	151
	Part 6	171



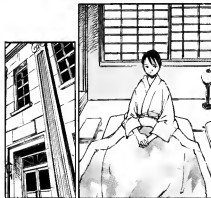
Chapter 7 ©
The Assassin
from Yomi,
Part 1













It isn't the Edo Period anymore—

So I heard.



This is the third case since last year.

Neighborhood's been rough lately. That murder-burglary...



It struck again in Marunouchi last night.

That crossroads older...



But they say the suspect is a woman.

And she wears a kimono with an eerie pattern.



This isn't my area of expertise...

A police inspector might come for help.



I take on mysteries and adventures, not some random killer on the street.



Are you expecting a mystery or adventure?

Rah, it's only a runaway case.



The head of a theater troupe wants me to find an actor that's gone missing.



That sounds were promising.



That aside, you have an appointment in Asakusa today.

Ah, that's right.



He came home late one night and laid up for awhile. Said he felt unwell.

The next day he left for the hospital and that was the last we saw of him.



He disappeared last year... sometime after the Blind Day Fair*.

Fujihiko was his name, an actor of age 20.







Yesterday
made it three
deaths.

But we've
finally drawn
a connection
between the
victims.



The serial
killer that's
in the papers,
right?

Th-That's
right...



Oh?

All of them
traveled to the
same location
last spring.



What
...?

Now just
a minute,
Inspector.

I can't
help you if the
government
is involved.



Not so
fast.

Here's the
catch—



They were
inspecting
underground
resources in
Palau under
secret orders
from the
government.

The ones murdered
were a physicist, a
merchant, and a high-
ranking government
official... the survivors
were a reporter, a
surveyor, and a naval
officer... six victims
in total.

Remember how parts
of Micronesia were
added to our country's
territories because of
the League of Nations
mandate?

and patterned
with skulls.

wearing a
kimono of unusual
design. We learned it
was a kind worn in
theater plays

but witnesses
say the slasher
is a woman

The papers
covered this
too,

Inspector,
was it—?

So...
we visited
a theater
troupe in
Asakusa...

...

Jigoku
Tayu?

That too,
but more impor-
tantly...

Right
after you
left.

I was startled
when I saw the
missing youth's
postcard.



Well, that
murdered son
and this actor
look identical.

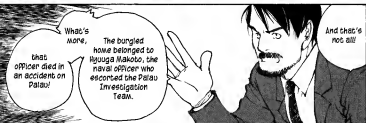


Yes...

His wife
and son were
murdered, if I
recall...



Do you
remember that
murder-burglary
last Fall? At a naval
officer's home...



What's
more,

The burgled
home belonged to
Hsuuga Makoto, the
naval officer who
escorted the Palau
Investigation
Team.

that
officer died in
an accident on
Palau!

And that's
not all!



I'm getting
confused.

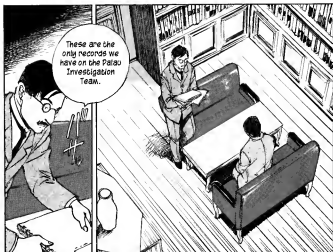
Give me a
minute.

I don't
blame you.



...







As for
his family— his
wife, Fumie, and
a son, Seiji.
Is that it?



Not a very
respect-
able end,
so they
didn't
elaborate.

Indeed.



He... got
dead drunk
while on
duty...

and fell
into the
sea.



That's
what's written,
isn't it?

Are you by any
chance investigating
the Miyoga Family's
murder and burglary
from last year?



Well...
yes,
I am.

I'd like to
know more about
Mr. Miyoga. May I
speak with a couple
of people from
the Navy?



Anyone
with a grudge
against him?

Do you know
of any other
relationships
he had?



Hyuuga-kun
and I weren't
particularly
close friends,
but he
was warm
and good-
natured and
got excellent
grades.

He would've
become a great
academic.



Oh—

Hmm...

A woman came
to visit once. She
was slightly older and
very beautiful.



According to
his colleagues.

Mr. Hyuuga was
a straight-faced,
humorless man.



Thanks to a
senpai from my
college years in
Foreign Affairs, I
got to talk with
Mr. Hyuuga's
colleagues.

I met a school
friend from the
university Mr.
Hyuuga's son
attended.



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- NOTES -

Page 2

1. "The land of the dead" in Japanese mythology. Comparable to Hades or Hell.

Page 11

1. The original term was "tsuji-giri"; testing a new sword by killing a pedestrian.

Page 12

1. A festival annually held at the Ootori Shrine on the Day of the Bird in November.

Page 13

1. A courtesan who lived in the Muromachi era, captured by bandits in her childhood and sold into prostitution for her beauty. Believed her misfortunes were due to sins committed in her previous life, named herself "jigoku" (Hell), and sang elegant prose while reciting the Buddha's name in her heart.
2. Also read as "onnagata"; male actor playing female roles in kabuki.